



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Governor Ehrlich Announces More Flu Vaccine For Maryland
Additional Vaccine Available for Maryland Citizens

ANNAPOLIS – Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. today announced several arrangements to make additional flu vaccine available, including an agreement to acquire up to 100,000 doses of Maryland-made FluMist vaccine from the manufacturer. Maryland officials also expect to receive 1,690 injectable doses of vaccine from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and 810 pediatric doses for children less than 35 months of age.

“Our goal in obtaining both types of vaccine is to ensure the best management of available resources,” said Governor Ehrlich. “By obtaining the FluMist vaccine, which is recommended for use by healthy people between 5 and 49 years of age, the State can effectively use all available injectable vaccine for those at greatest risk.”

Governor Ehrlich and Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Secretary Nelson J. Sabatini, worked with FluMist manufacturer, MedImmune Inc., of Gaithersburg to develop the special, low-cost arrangement with the State.

“Thanks to Governor Ehrlich’s proactive effort and concern for Maryland citizens, DHMH is able to purchase additional flu vaccine and make it available to local health departments,” said Secretary Sabatini.

Shipments are expected to arrive and be distributed within the next two weeks. Local health departments will announce clinic dates.

DHMH has confirmed 398 cases of the flu to date this year after a total of 147 confirmed cases during last year’s flu season. The influenza season numbers generally peak in late January and early February.

For more information about ways you can minimize your chances of catching the flu, visit the DHMH Web site at www.dhmf.state.md.us.

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